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SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING 100 LARKIN STREET · SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

POLICE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN ELEMENT

I. Summary

The Police Facilities Plan was prompted by the Police Department's growing awareness of general facility inadequacies and of older building deterioration. Faced with the question of rehabilitation, replacement, or relocation of existing facilities, the Police Department requested that the Department of City Planning, consistent with its Charter responsibilities of planning and programming public improvements, prepare a long-range facility plan and development program for police facilities as a section of the Community Facilities element of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report includes this cover statement and the Police Facilities Plan, pursuant to Article 9, Section 15147.C of the "Guidelines for EE 74.127 Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970."

II. Project Description

This Plan applies to the area within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City and County of San Francisco, California.

The purpose of the Police Facilities Plan is to provide objectives, policies, and criteria for guidance of long-range decisions relating to the renewal, relocation, or rehabilitation of police facilities, including district stations, police headquarters, and auxiliary support facilities, in response to the police service requirements of the City of San Francisco, as described on pages 21-35 of the Plan.

The draft Plan is a proposed section to the Community Facilities element of San Francisco's Comprehensive Plan. As a policy plan for the guidance of capital improvement decisions, the Plan reviews the operational aspects of police work as they relate to facilities, the adequacy of existing facilities to meet present and future needs, and the relationship and impact of the various police facility types to the overall land use patterns and long-range planning goals of the City. For each facility type, the Plan proposes criteria (pages 28-35 of the Plan) that define the relationships between the various police facilities and other community activities and land uses.

Specific recommendations will be found on pages 36-40. Construction pursuant to these recommendations will be subject to the usual environmental review procedures of the City and

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County of San Francisco. The environmental settings of the various police facilities are described in the "Background" section of the report (pages 1-20).

III. The Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

The Plan principally deals with the renewal, rehabilitation or relocation of existing facilities. In terms of urban planning and land use, the present facilities are deficient. The Plan calls for measures such as: relocation of certain police uses out of park and open space settings; location of police facilities near public transit and community activity centers, thereby reducing dependence on the auto; expanded police service at the neighborhood level; and inclusion of community amenities such as meeting rooms.

Specific impacts, such as energy consumption, alterations to ecological systems, etc., will be addressed in the further environmental review of each individual project, prior to construction.

IV. Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot be Avoided if the Proposal is Implemented

The recommended relocation and expansion of various facilities will entail unavoidable impacts, including consumption of nonrenewable energy and material resources, relocation of people and land uses, localized air pollutant concentrations in areas where many vehicles are in use, increased fossil fuel consumption for heating and cooling buildings and temporary construction impacts upon ambient noise levels, air pollution, and traffic patterns. These, and other impacts, such as noise and safety issues associated with the heliport, will be discussed in depth, in the light of then current environmental conditions, at such times as individual recommendations of the Plan are implemented.

V. Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize the Impact

The criteria section of the Plan, pages 28-35, outlines mitigating measures designed to minimize impacts. The Plan calls for retention and alteration of structures rather than new construction, whenever possible, to avoid unnecessary resource consumption and land use dislocations. The Plan recommends decreasing the number of district stations to seven, thus eliminating the need to build two new stations and avoiding associated construction impacts. However, this recommendation is subject to community support of such action. Also, the relocation or phasing out of Park and Ingleside Stations and the Pistol Range will increase land available for recreation and open space facilities.

VI. Alternatives to the Proposed Project

The Plan considers (pages 17-20) several facility configuration alternatives, including nine, eight, seven, four and central police station concepts. The nine, eight, and seven station concepts would require less travel time for police vehicles, smaller individual sites, and would reduce traffic and congestion at any single location by dispersing the level of activity among the several facilities.

If no Plan were adopted, less satisfactory, unplanned development might take place. Nonimplementation of the Plan may pose a risk to public safety since inadequate police facilities may have an adverse impact on the effectiveness of police service. If no construction were undertaken, the Police Department would continue to function with obsolete and inadequate facilities, as described on pages 10-16.

VII. The Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

No long-term cumulative effects which may adversely affect the state of the environment are anticipated from implementation of the Plan. As the Plan deals primarily with facilities already in existence, it is not expected to have a significant effect upon land use options. If the Plan results in greater efficiency in Police Department operation, it may increase the range of beneficial uses of the urban environment. The Plan does not pose long-term risks to health or safety.

VIII. Any Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would be Involved in the Proposed Action Should it be Implemented

Irreversible environmental changes resulting from implementation of the Plan include the commitment of land, energy, and construction materials to specific police facility projects. The extent of such proposed commitments is described in the "Program" section (pages 36-41).

IX. The Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action

The proposed Plan does not foster economic or population growth, either directly or indirectly, since the Plan essentially calls for the maintenance of the existing level of police facilities while allowing for flexibility in police service. The distribution and general location of these facilities is the chief concern of this Plan. Possible indirect effects of alterations in police service, produced by the proposed facility changes, upon population magnitude and distribution, are difficult to estimate.

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X. EIR Authors and Consultants; Organizations and Persons Consulted

This EIR and Police Facilities Plan was prepared by the Department of City Planning (DCP) in cooperation with the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD).

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